

APPENDIX B

PRELIMINARY CULTURE RESOURCE  
ANALYSIS

## **CULTURAL RESOURCE OVERVIEW: MILITARY ROAD/ MISSOURI AVENUE TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

### **Introduction**

The Military Road/ Missouri Avenue study area encompasses a four-block radius along Military Road and Missouri Avenue between Western Avenue, NW and Riggs Road, NE in the District of Columbia. This roadway study area extends east-west from Wisconsin Avenue to North Capital Street. The project may involve improvements to these roads and their intersections with various streets within the project corridor.

This study has been undertaken to (1) identify previously recorded archaeological sites and historic sites, building, structures, districts, and objects and determine if any of these have been listed or are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register and (2) to conduct a preliminary reconnaissance survey and assessment of historic/ architectural resources along Military Road and its major intersections to identify cultural resources that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This study is preliminary in scope, and should be followed by a formal cultural resource survey, when the project planning has reached a point where it is possible to define an Area of Potential Effect associated with the intersection or roadway improvements.

The District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (DCHPO) was visited to ascertain the presence of previously identified cultural resources in the study area. Both archaeological sites and historic structures files were examined. The location, nature, and National Register eligibility status were noted for every previously identified resource within the study area. Following the DCHPO file review, a preliminary reconnaissance survey was conducted to determine the nature and number of architectural resources 50 years of age or older that might be potentially affected by improvements to Military Road and Missouri Avenue. Preliminary assessments were made as to whether any of these potentially meet criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No archaeological survey was undertaken for this study, as a study of that scope would require intrusive, subsurface testing.

### **Previously Recorded Archaeological Resources**

The DCSHPO site files contain forms for two archaeological sites in the study area (Table 1). One of these sites is located along Military Road and another is situated adjacent to Missouri Avenue. Site 51NW9 is located at the intersection of Nebraska Avenue, Military Road, and Broad Branch Road. The site is identified as a prehistoric camp from an undetermined period and was recorded by Bruce Powell of the National Park Service. The survey form contains minimal information, and the present status of the site is undetermined.

**TABLE 1: RECORDED ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN STUDY AREA**

Name/Site Number	Location	Type/Description	National Register Status
51NW9	Nebraska Avenue at Military Road and Broad Branch Road	Prehistoric	Unknown
Emory Playground	South side of Missouri Avenue between Georgia Avenue and 9 <sup>th</sup> Street	Historic - 19 <sup>th</sup> Century dwelling	Undetermined
Fort Stevens	Between 13 <sup>th</sup> , Quackenbos, Rittenhouse Street	Historic - Civil War Fortification	Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
Fort Slocum	Between 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Oglethorpe, Madison Streets and Kansas Avenue	Historic - Civil War Fortification	Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

The Emory Playground consists of the entire lot located south of Missouri Avenue between Georgia Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The site was surveyed during an archaeological survey of eight recreation areas by Engineering-Science (Engineering Science 1984). Structural remains and artifacts were discovered in the center of the square. It was concluded that these remains were associated with the Emory House, the home of Matthew Emory who was mayor of the District during the 1870s. The Emory House also has significant associations with the Battle of Fort Stevens, as the house served as the headquarters for Generals D. H. Couch and Frances A. Walker during the engagement. The survey concluded that further archeological investigations would be necessary to determine the site's National Register eligibility, prior to future construction or other ground disturbance at this site.

Fort Stevens and Fort Slocum are located within the general study area, and while they are considered historic resources they may also have archaeological components. Both forts served as part of the Federal defenses of the City of Washington during the Civil War. Fort Stevens also was the only part of the city's defensive perimeter that came under fire by Confederate forces during the summer of 1864. Both forts are now preserved on reservations maintained by the National Park Service.

While there are no known archaeological sites located immediately adjacent to the Military Road/Missouri Avenue roadway or the intersections under study, it would be necessary to undertake a more intensive survey, including subsurface testing, to formally identify significant archaeological resources.

### **Previously Recorded Historic/Architectural Resources**

Historic/ architectural resources are located within both the project study area and along a number of intersections along Military Road within the study area. Review of the DCSHPO site identified five individual historic and architectural resources and one historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Table 2). The individual resources include three buildings:

the Chevy Chase Theater, Chevy Chase Arcade, and the Military Road School. The Chevy Chase Theater and Chevy Chase Arcade are located along Connecticut Avenue between Livingston and Northampton Streets. The Military Road School is located on the north side of Missouri Avenue between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets. Both Fort Stevens and Fort Slocum are listed on the National Register due to their association with the Civil War defenses of Washington, D.C.

**TABLE 2: HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Name	Address and Location	Resource Type
Chevy Chase Theater	Connecticut Avenue, between Northampton and McKinley Streets	Building
Chevy Chase Arcade	Connecticut Avenue, between Morrison and Livingston Streets	Building
Military Road School	Missouri Avenue, between 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> Streets	Building
Fort Stevens	13 <sup>th</sup> Street, between Rittenhouse and Quackenbos Streets	Site
Fort Slocum	Between 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street, Kansas Avenue, Oglethorpe Street, and Madison Street	Site
Rock Creek Park	Between Oregon Avenue and 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, Klingle Road, and Parkside Drive	District

A third Civil War fort, Fort DeRussy, is also located in the study area and is part of the Rock Creek Park Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The district boundary roughly corresponds with the park boundaries and is defined as 16<sup>th</sup> Street to the east, Oregon Avenue and Branch Road to the west, Klingle Road to the south, and the District line and Parkside Drive to the north. The park contains many individual contributing archaeological and historic resources. Military Road is considered a historic road and is thus a contributing resource within the park.

In addition fortifications like Fort Stevens and Fort Slocum, the National Park System maintains a number of small park reservations that link these forts. A number of these reservations are connecting parcels in what is known as the Fort Circle Parks system. The entire Fort Circle Parks system is eligible for the National Register due to its association with twentieth century urban planning. Portions of the Fort Circle Park System located within the project study area include various greenbelt reservations that link Fort Totten with Fort Slocum, Fort Slocum with Fort Stevens, Fort Stevens with Rock Creek Park, and Rock Creek Park with Fort Reno.

Aside from the parcels included in the Fort Circle Park System, there are many other reservations or stray parcels of land that fall under the administration of Rock Creek Park.

Previous surveys have recorded other historic/architectural resources along Military Road, Missouri Avenue and Riggs Road within the study area, with some of these having been determined eligible for National Register listing by the DCHPO. Two thematic District-wide

architectural surveys recorded resources along Military Road and Missouri Avenue. E.H.T. Tracerics conducted a survey of apartment building in the District of Columbia (Tracerics 1987). A number of apartment buildings along Missouri Avenue and one complex along Riggs Road within the study area were documented as part of the Tracerics thematic survey of D.C. apartment buildings. All of these buildings were constructed between 1935 and 1941, and most are multiple-story brick utilitarian structures. Table 3 provides a listing of these buildings along Missouri Avenue and Riggs Road with their addresses and eligibility assessments.

**TABLE 3: SURVEYED APARTMENT BUILDINGS**

Property Address/ Name	Description	Date of Construction	National Register Status
43-45 Missouri Avenue	2-story brick duplex	1936	Eligible
49-53 Missouri Avenue	2-story brick triplex	1936	Not eligible
103 Missouri Avenue	2-story brick apartment building with flat roof containing parapet	1935	Eligible
430 Missouri Avenue	4-story brick apartment building with utilitarian design	1941	Eligible
901-907 Missouri Avenue	2-story brick apartment building with utilitarian design	1936	Eligible
911-915 Missouri Avenue	2-story brick apartment building with utilitarian design	1936	Eligible
1301-1315 Missouri Avenue/ Concord Manor	2½-story brick apartment buildings	1936	Eligible
11-15 and 17-23 Riggs Road/ Chillum Manor	3-story brick building with utilitarian design.	1942	Eligible

Source: Tracerics 1987

Two surveys of D.C. Public Schools (Lee 1989 and Harris and Wyeth 1998) have identified three schools along Missouri Avenue and one school along Riggs Street, all of which are located in the project study area (Table 4). These are the Keene School, Edward A. Paul Junior High School, the Brightwood School, and the Military Road School. Only the Military Road School has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The other three schools were all determined not to meet NRHP eligibility criteria.

**TABLE 4: SURVEYED SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

Name	Location	Description	Date of Construction	National Register Status
Keene School	Riggs Road	U-shaped Georgian school building	1932	Not Eligible
Edward A. Paul Junior High School	5800 8 <sup>th</sup> Street, NW	Colonial Revival school	1930	Not Eligible
Brightwood School	7 <sup>th</sup> Street	Colonial Revival school	1926	Not Eligible
Military Road School	1375 Missouri Avenue, NW	2-story brick Italian Renaissance school	1912	Listed on the National Register

## **Reconnaissance Field Survey**

An architectural reconnaissance field survey was conducted for two purposes. First, the survey would verify the location of previously recorded resources and identify unrecorded architectural resources along Military Road, Missouri Avenue, and Riggs Road and major intersections of these streets within the project study area. Second, the survey would assess whether the study area contains unrecorded architectural resources which have potential to meet National Register criteria. For the purpose of summarizing the reconnaissance, the project study has been divided into three segments: Military Road between Western Avenue and 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Military Road through Rock Creek Park between 27<sup>th</sup> Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Street, and Missouri Avenue and a portion of Riggs Road.

### *Military Road from Western Avenue to 27<sup>th</sup> Street*

The portion of Military Road between Western Avenue and 27<sup>th</sup> Street extends through a residential neighborhood consisting primarily single family dwellings constructed between circa 1920 and 1950, mixed with a fewer number of multiple dwellings constructed during the same period. The neighborhood is typical of planned residential communities from 1900 to 1940. It is a “straight street” subdivision which mimics the standard urban grid street pattern. The streets and many of the individual lots are also lined by many large mature trees. Tree plantings were another common feature of subdivisions of this era and were used to give such areas a park-like setting. This neighborhood is located between Western Avenue and Nebraska Avenue.

The architectural character of the subdivision represents primarily vernacular forms mixed with eclectic designs popularized during the early twentieth century. About half of the houses in this area also have brick exteriors. This suggests that the many of the houses were constructed after 1920, since masonry veneer became popular and affordable after this date. By far the most common dwelling types in the subdivision are simple one-and-a-half and two-story vernacular side-gabled designs. Intermixed with these houses are other vernacular types that include four-square dwellings, a two-story hipped-roof country house with a square plan commonly built from 1910-1930. The district also includes some more domestic styles that were popularized during the early twentieth century. These include Craftsman/Bungalows, Tudor, and Colonial Revival styles which were all popular from 1920-1940. Also included among the houses in the areas are examples of dwelling showing Spanish Mission influences with regards to roof and porch detail. Spanish Mission influenced houses were commonly constructed throughout the southwest United States from 1890 to 1920, but scattered examples were commonly constructed in subdivisions throughout the United States during this time (McAllester and McAllester 1992:410).

Although specifically designed for single family homes, the subdivision also contains some multiple dwellings and row houses that are commonly found in more urban neighborhoods. A stretch of row houses extends along the south side of the 4100 block of Military Road. A few duplexes are also found scattered among the single family homes. The duplexes are generally all two-and-a-half story vernacular dwellings with mansard roofs. Examples of these duplexes are located on the north side of the 4100, 3800, and 3700 block of Military Road. Finally multiple story apartment buildings line Connecticut Avenue in this area. Connecticut Avenue intersects

with Military Road a few hundred feet east of 39<sup>th</sup> Street. One notable apartment building located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Military Road is the Louie Building (5402 Connecticut Ave.), a five story brick apartment building constructed in 1927. Two National Register listed resources, Chevy Chase Theater and Chevy Chase Arcade, are also located on Connecticut Avenue four blocks north of the intersection.

Neither the Chevy Chase Arcade nor the Chevy Chase Theater would be affected by proposed improvements to Military Road. Both are located more than four blocks from Military Road. Therefore, neither will be physically or visually impacted by the project.

The Louie Apartment Building apparently was omitted from the apartment building survey, as it was not documented. It appears to be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register, and it should receive a formal assessment of National Register eligibility using the contexts developed by the apartment building survey (Traceries 1987).

The suburban character of the project study area along Military Road between Nebraska Avenue and 27<sup>th</sup> Street is more “modernized”. Between Nebraska Avenue and Rock Creek Park, the streets are more irregularly planned with many being more curvilinear in design. Such is a characteristic of later planned subdivision commonly constructed after 1940. The architecture of this area also is characterized by more vernacular types. Most of the dwellings are simple two-story side-gabled brick dwelling constructed after 1940. Such houses are often referred to as “minimal traditional” since they retain the form of earlier more eclectic designs but lack the architectural detailing.

Based upon the preliminary assessment, the neighborhood through which Military Road passes between Western Avenue and Nebraska Avenue contains a good collection of residential architecture containing both vernacular and eclectic designs representative of early twentieth century suburbanization. As a result, this neighborhood has potential to meet National Register eligibility as a district under Criterion C for architectural significance. The major intersections along Military Road where improvements may occur within this neighborhood include 41<sup>st</sup> Street, 39<sup>th</sup> Street, Nevada Avenue, Nebraska Avenue and Broad Branch Road, 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, 31<sup>st</sup> Street, 30<sup>th</sup> Place. Examples of the residential construction already previously discussed are located at all of these intersections. None of the residential buildings located at these intersections or anywhere else along Military Road through this neighborhood appear to be individually eligible for listing on the National Register.

The neighborhood through which Military Road passes between Nebraska Avenue and 27<sup>th</sup> Street represents a later period of development that does not appear to meet NRHP criteria on account that this neighborhood does not contain a distinctive collection of architecture and has no known associations with important historical events or individuals. None of the individual resources along Military Avenue or at its intersections with 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, 31<sup>st</sup> Street, 30<sup>th</sup> Place, and 27<sup>th</sup> Street within this neighborhood appear to be individual eligible for NRHP listing.

### Military Road between 27<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets - Rock Creek Park

Military Road passes through Rock Creek Park between 27<sup>th</sup> Street and 16<sup>th</sup> Street. As previously discussed, Rock Creek Park is a historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Military Road is considered a historic road through Rock Creek Park and is thus a contributing resource within the historic district. The road through the park has two associated structures, the Military Road Bridge and the Joyce Road Bridge. The Military Road Bridge carries Military Road over Rock Creek and the Joyce Road Bridge carries Military Road over Joyce Road. Both bridges are modern structures not yet 50 years of age and therefore are non-contributing resources within the historic district. Military Road passes within close proximity of two other contributing resources within the district. Fort DeRussy and the Rock Creek Golf Course are both located just north of Military Road.

Fort DeRussy should not be affected by any proposed improvement to Military Road since it is located a good distance from the roadway. Improvements should not adversely affect the golf course, but a formal assessment of effect should be determined based upon the nature of the proposed improvements.

### Missouri Avenue and Riggs Road to 1<sup>st</sup> Street

The eastern half of the project area consists of Missouri Avenue and a small portion of Riggs Road. This area primarily contains residential neighborhoods, with the exception of Georgia Avenue where the land use is entirely commercial at this street's intersection with Missouri Avenue. The residential neighborhood along Missouri Avenue contains a variety of different property types that include schools, churches, parks, and residential structures. The residential structures include single dwellings, row houses, and apartment buildings.

The only National Register-listed resource located on Missouri Avenue and Riggs Road within the study area is the Military Road School. The school is located on the north side of Missouri Avenue between 14<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets, but not at either intersection.

Portions of the Fort Circle Park System are located along Missouri Avenue within this part of the study area. As previously noted the entire Fort Circle Parks system is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The portions of this park system along Missouri Avenue are greenbelt park reservations that link the fortification sites. Park land is located on both sides of Missouri Avenue at its intersections with 16<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Streets and on the north side of Missouri Avenue at its intersections with 8<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Fort Stevens and Fort Slocum are located in the project study area and are also part of the Fort Circle Park System. However, both forts located two-to-three blocks north of Missouri Avenue and therefore should not be physically or visually affected by any improvements to the road itself.

The only other National Register eligible resources located along either Missouri Avenue or Riggs Road are the apartment buildings identified during the city-wide survey (see Table 3). Many of these buildings are located at intersections along the corridor where improvements may occur. The building at 103 Missouri Avenue is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Missouri Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Street. The building located at 430 Missouri Avenue is situated at



the southeast corner of the intersection of Missouri Avenue and 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The apartment building located at 901-907 Missouri Avenue stands at the northwest side of the intersection of Missouri Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup> Street. A Concord Manor apartment (1301-1315 Missouri Avenue) is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of 13<sup>th</sup> Street and Missouri Avenue. Finally, a part of the Chillum Manor apartment complex stands at the southeast corner of the intersection of Riggs Road and North Capital Street.

The remaining unrecorded architectural resources older than 50 years located along Missouri Avenue and Riggs Road and adjoining side street intersections within the study area consist mostly of vernacular single dwellings and rowhouses constructed between circa 1910 and circa 1940. The commercial buildings located along Georgia Avenue consist of mostly utilitarian one-story commercial block type structures constructed during the mid twentieth century. Two notable buildings are located along Georgia Avenue. The Carolina Furniture building located at the southwest corner of Georgia Avenue and Missouri Avenue. It is a three story stone building featuring arcaded openings and a stone cornice. A two-story stone commercial building at 5913 Georgia Avenue is situated at the northeast corner of Missouri Avenue and Georgia Avenue. It is classically influenced containing two-story engaged Corinthian columns and an arched entry bay.

Finally, the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge carries 16<sup>th</sup> Street over Missouri Avenue, just east of Rock Creek Park. The bridge is a concrete structure with stone veneer. It was probably constructed during the early or mid twentieth century. The 16<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge represents an example of standard 20<sup>th</sup> century highway design. Being a common example of highway design, the bridge lacks distinction to warrant NRHP eligibility.

Because there are resources that are listed in or have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places along Missouri Avenue and Riggs Road, any proposed improvement to these roads should follow proper compliance with both Section 4(f) of the National Transportation Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Based upon this preliminary field visit and assessment, few if any of the unrecorded architectural resources in this area appear to meet National Register criteria. Only the Carolina Furniture Building and the classically influenced commercial building at 5913 Georgia Avenue have potential to meet National Register Criterion C for architectural significance. The residential buildings appear to represent indistinctive examples of early and mid twentieth century urban construction, with no known historical associations.

## **Summary and Conclusions**

The study area contains significant archaeological and architectural resources.

Formal consultation and studies should be undertaken to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (following the procedures stipulated in provided in the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's *Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties* [36 CFR Part 800]) and Section 4(f) of the National Transportation Act.

Few archaeological resources have been identified in the study area, but this is doubtless a result of the urban, developed character of the study area. Formal surveys, including subsurface testing, might identify significant archaeological resources, such as the Emory House or remains of Native American occupation.

Numerous historic sites and districts have been documented within the study area, and the reconnaissance survey has identified areas where formal survey might result in the identification of additional sites or districts that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The roadway corridor passes through Rock Creek Park and is adjacent to part of the Fort Circle Parks System, located east of Rock Creek Park. Rock Creek Park has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Fort Circle Parks System has been determined eligible for NRHP listing. Military Road is considered a historic road extending through Rock Creek Park and as such is a contributing resource within the historic district. Alterations to this road may result in an adverse effect to the National Register district. An adverse effect should require proper mitigation in compliance with Section 4(f) of the National Transportation Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. Adverse effects to those portions of the Fort Circle Parks System adjacent to the roadway corridor should be mitigated as well.

A number of historic buildings have been previously recorded in the study area. These include the Military Road School, located on the north side of Missouri Avenue, which has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Various apartment buildings have been identified as NRHP-eligible on Missouri Avenue and Riggs Road within the study area. Potential adverse effects to both the listed Military Road School and the determined eligible properties should be assessed and mitigated in proper compliance with Section 106.

To further comply with Section 106, an architectural survey should be conducted for all properties adjacent to those portions of corridor scheduled for improvement in order to ascertain if any buildings, structure, sites, districts or objects 50 years of age or older that might be affected by the project is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Field visits during this preliminary study found only a few resources that show potential to meet NRHP criteria. Two are commercial buildings located along Georgia Avenue at this street's intersection with Missouri Avenue. These are the Carolina Furniture Building and the classically influenced building at 5913 Georgia Avenue. The Louie Apartment Building located at 5604 Connecticut Avenue was not included in the Traceries survey and should be documented and evaluated according to the context developed by the city-wide apartment building survey. One neighborhood was identified as potentially meeting NRHP criteria as a potential historic district. Military Road passes through a cohesive residential district between Western and Nebraska Avenues which contains a good collection of residential construction representing both vernacular and eclectic designs which potentially meets NRHP Criterion C for architectural significance.

All of the other individual buildings and neighborhood represent typical examples of early-to-mid twentieth century residential design. Because they represent common domestic

development during this period and more than likely lack any significant historical associations, none appear to meet NRHP criteria.

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